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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Re the Application of:

NORTE et al.

Serial No.: 10/713,639

Filed: November 13, 2003

Atty. File No.: 4366-130

For: "SHIELD FOR HIGH FREQUENCY
TELECOMMUNICATIONS
CONNECTOR"Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313

) Group Art Unit: 2833

) Examiner: Paumen, Gary F.

) Confirmation No. 2442

RESPONSE TO
RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

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on 11/10/04

SHERIDAN ROSS P.C.

KATHLEEN MCINNISH

Dear Sir:

This response to restriction requirement is submitted in reply to the Examiner's Action having a mailing date of October 13, 2004. While no fees are believed due in connection with the filing of this paper, please charge any fees deemed necessary to Deposit Account No. 19-1970.

In the Office Action dated October 13, 2004, the Examiner posed a requirement that either of two identified claim groups be selected for examination. The requirement is respectfully traversed. In particular, each of the identified groups of claims is not related to the other identified groups of claims as a process for using a product that can be practiced with another materially different product, or a product that can be used in a materially different process.

In particular, Applicants note that the claims identified as a part of Group I (Claims 1-35) recite either "a cable aperture" (Claims 1-32) or "means for allowing a multiple conductor cable to exit said shield means" (Claims 33-35). In comparison, the claims identified as belonging to Group II (Claims 36-50) recite "threading at least a first cable through a first aperture of a conductive shield" (Claims 36-43) or "placing at least a first cable in a first aperture of a conductive shield" (Claims 44-50). In view of these related elements, the finding of the Office Action that the product as claimed can be used in a materially different process is not accurate.

The apparatus claims specify that the recited aperture comprise "a cable aperture" (Claims 1-32) or "means for allowing a multiple conductor cable to exit such shield means" (Claims 33-35). Furthermore, the apparatus claims are generally directed to a connector shield. Because a connector shield is recited by the apparatus claims, a port through which a cable may be threaded (*i.e.*, a cable aperture) is required for the connector shield to function. The provision of a viewing port or a cooling port is not prohibited by the claims, however such a port would be in addition to the claimed cable aperture or means for allowing a multiple conductor cable to exit the shield means. That is, while a connector shield as claimed may be provided with additional features for additional purposes, the elements recited by the independent apparatus claims specify a cable aperture or means for allowing a multiple conductor cable to exit said shield means, not a viewing aperture or a cooling port. Furthermore, examination on the merits of all the pending claims would not present a serious burden.

Applicants provisionally elect to prosecute Claims 1-35 (Group I) should the restriction requirement be made final.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and withdrawal of the Examiner's restriction requirement are respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if doing so would expedite the resolution of this case.

Respectfully submitted,

SHERIDAN ROSS P.C.

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